

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Travis Elison, Area Biologist
Doug Bue, Biologist
Phone: (907) 543-2433
Fax: (907) 543-2021

Kuskokwim Area Office
PO Box 1467
Bethel, Alaska, 99559
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**Kuskokwim Bay/Etolin Strait Herring Fishery News Release 1
Security Cove District to open for Commercial Fishing
Emergency Order 1**

This is the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Bethel with an announcement regarding the Security Cove District herring fishery.

Department staff flew an aerial survey of the Security Cove District yesterday, May 22. Weather conditions were good and the water was clear. A total biomass estimate of 20,000 tons was observed in large and scattered schools. There was no spawn observed.

The Security Cove District opens to commercial herring fishing this evening, Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 6:00 PM and will remain open until Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at 6:00 PM. The estimated observed biomass documented on May 22 exceeded the 1,200-ton biomass threshold needed to allow a commercial fishery. The guideline harvest based off of the May 22 aerial survey is 4,000-tons.

The Department is requesting that companies participating in the Security Cove herring fishery report to the Bethel office by 9:00 AM daily to provide harvest information and fleet size at the time by email to doug.bue@alaska.gov or by calling (907) 543-2931.

Fishermen are reminded that there has been no test fishing yet and we suggest testing before gear is fully deployed.

This has been the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham.

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